

Monthly Report for May 2018

Submitted June 5, 2018

Meetings and Conference

P20 Connects Assessment Meeting

Ross Goldstein and Ann Kellogg were invited to attend the P20 Connects Assessment Meeting hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Campus Compact. The P20 Connects is a civic engagement program that currently has four pilot projects in Maryland: (1) Frederick Community College and Frederick County Public Schools, (2) Frostburg State University and Allegany County Public Schools, (3) Towson University and Baltimore County Public Schools, and (4) University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and Somerset County Public Schools. The meeting resulted in the articulation of program outcomes and a discussion on how those outcomes can be measured. Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Kellogg provided examples of how Center longitudinal data may be able to assess the outcomes of students who participate in the programs.

Research and Policy Advisory Board Meeting

The Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB) met in May. The meeting provided a forum for gathering stakeholder input on MLDS Center output priorities for 2017-2018. The priorities identified during the meeting will be incorporated into a Research and Reporting Priorities Output Plan that will be presented at the May 31st RPB meeting and at the June 8th Governing Board meeting. The Research branch also presented an update on their study *The Relationship between School Concentration of Poverty and Individual Student Poverty and Long-Term Student Outcomes*.

Associate of Arts in Teaching Oversight Council Meeting

The Center presented its preliminary analysis of the educational and workforce outcomes for students in Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) offered through Maryland's community colleges. The AAT program is designed to prepare students to transfer into bachelor's degree programs in teaching subject areas. The AAT Oversight Council is tasked with reviewing the education and workforce outcomes for AAT programs. The Center will be working closely with MHEC and the AAT Oversight Council to expand this study to support their on-going work.

Center Output

Research Spotlight

The Center completed its first Research Spotlight. Research Spotlights provide concise reports on large research initiatives conducted by the Center that can inform policymakers on important education and workforce outcomes. The first spotlight highlights important findings from the report *Workforce Outcomes for Maryland Students Who Do Not Attend College*. The spotlight should be released around June 1st.

Center Output Website Redesign

The Center completed work on redesigning the web pages that contain Center output. New navigation has been added to the home page to direct site visitors to the different types of output. A new Center Output Introduction page was also added to provide brief profiles of each type of Center Output. Contact

information and GovDelivery subscription information were incorporated into the Center Output Introduction page. The new pages will be released around June 1st.

Research Branch

Research Grants

The grant submitted to the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) by Dr. Ken Elpus, Associate Professor of Music Education at the University of Maryland College Park, was selected for funding. This grant focuses on the college and career outcomes of students who took International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in arts in comparison to similar students who did not take IB courses in arts. The research branch is currently coordinating with Dr. Elpus to get him started with the MLDS Center.

Research Reports

The research team has fully drafted research tables looking at the relationship between individual student-level characteristics and high-school level characteristics on the need for remedial coursework in Maryland community colleges. This report will expand upon the previous research report on remedial education in two major ways: (1) results focus on community college students since that population includes the most students who are assessed to need remedial coursework; and (2) results include a focus on high school characteristics, such as school size, percentage poverty, and the racial composition of the school above and beyond the role of individual level characteristics in predicting need for remedial coursework. Results will help to target early prevention and intervention programs with the goal of preventing the need for remedial coursework in community colleges.

The research team has refined the research questions and analyses planned for the research project on the effectiveness and timeliness of 4-year colleges in graduating students. This research was refined based on feedback from the research and policy advisory board and will be taken back to the research and policy advisory board this month. A background rationale document and a mockup of a potential feedback report for institutions has been created by research branch staff and was shared with the research and policy advisory board.

Additional Research Activities

The research team has begun work on a research project to extend work the Center has already conducted in response to a request from the University System of Maryland (USM) healthcare workgroup/writing group regarding people with health-related postsecondary degrees and working in the healthcare sector. This project will examine the effectiveness of the health-related CTE program pathway in increasing the numbers of people in this field. The requested turnaround time for this project is relatively short (6 to 8 weeks). The research team is leveraging the work Mr. Heath Witzen, Research Fellow with the Center, has already completed on his study of CTE effectiveness in order to meet this requested timeline.

Research Branch staff continued to support the Center's ongoing documentation efforts by providing feedback and recommendations for source to target mapping documentation of MHEC data.

Research Series

The final research series of the 2017-2018 academic year was on Thursday, May 3rd. Drs. Bess Rose, Statistician, Dawnsha Mushonga, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Angela Henneberger, Research Director presented research on the long term associations between student and school level poverty and high

school and college outcomes. Results highlight the negative and substantial role of poverty history in middle and high school on long-term outcomes and the substantial role of school level poverty above and beyond the role of individual level poverty. The results are the most pronounced in schools that are not eligible for Title I. This research was conducted in response to a research request by Senator Ferguson, and the results were presented to him in a private follow-up presentation. His feedback will be incorporated into the next iteration of analyses and research report finalization.

Conferences

Dr. Henneberger attended the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) conference in Washington, D.C., which focuses on preventing social, physical and mental health, and academic problems to promote health and well-being. Dr. Henneberger presented using MLDS data in a symposium entitled “Facilitating Prevention Science in Education Settings: An Example Using Statewide Linked Longitudinal Data from Maryland’s Education System and the Workforce”. Co-authors on the presentation were Heath Witzten and Alison Preston. She also networked with national and international experts in the use of administrative data for research and attended a workshop on grant writing hosted by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

Research branch staff are preparing two presentations for the upcoming MD Connections Summit in early June. Dr. Henneberger has been preparing slides on the use of causal inference techniques with MLDS data. Drs. Rose, Mushonga, and Henneberger have been preparing slides on the use of eligibility for free and reduced price meals to measure poverty at the student and school levels.

Synthetic Data Project

In May the SDP Team worked on several tasks. The team developed the budget for the final year of the project starting from July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2019 and will be processing that on each campus. An article proposal abstract was submitted for consideration for inclusion in an upcoming Special Issue of the *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness* was positively received and the team was invited to submit a full article draft by August 1st. The team also worked on an upcoming poster and oral paper presentation that were accepted for two conferences this summer.

The team welcomed Patricia Khan to the project, as the new IT Project Manager, and she has quickly gotten up to speed on the project and is moving us ahead in terms of database design development. The SDP Team and many members of the MLDS Data Processing Team have been meeting with Patricia to help her understand the system and what is needed from her with respect to database work.

System Management

Data from the Motor Vehicle Administration

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) recently informed the Center that it would no longer provide the Center with Social Security Numbers as part of the records MVA sends to the Center. The Center has been receiving driver records from the MVA since 2015. The data is used to fill in the gaps in the student data received from the partner agencies. The SSN is especially important for matching a K-12 student record to workforce records in instances where the SSN is not part of the student record received from MSDE.

The reason MVA has discontinued sending the SSN is that the MVA was audited by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and was informed by SSA that it is impermissible to disclose the SSN. SSA's rationale for this decision is that the SSN that MVA receives from its customers is verified against the SSA database. According to SSA, once the SSN is verified it becomes SSA's property and therefore SSA rules determine whether or not the SSN can be redisclosed. SSA rules strictly limit redisclosure of SSN for specified purposes that SSA maintains does not include the Center.

Ross Goldstein and Dawn O'Croinin met with MVA and SSA representatives. There is an opportunity to appeal the decision to senior SSA officials. Ms. O'Croinin and Mr. Goldstein are working on submitting an appeal.

Tasks

1. Along with MSDE and DoIT, Center staff is continuing to evaluate different options for continuing the Center's Oracle licensing and use at the DoIT's enterprise data center.
2. Center staff continues to meet monthly to address security issues and complete actions to tighten the Center's security profile. Also, Center staff validates the weekly Intrusion Detection System reports.
3. Center staff evaluated and procured licenses for Microsoft Power BI. Staff will be creating one of our next Center Outputs using that reporting tool.
4. Monthly desktops and server patches were completed.

Top 10 dashboard hits

Dashboard Name	Hits
Students Who Initially Enroll in a Maryland Community College - Outcomes	12
High School Outcomes and Postsecondary Enrollment Status - Overview	8
High School Graduates with Initial Postsecondary Enrollments	7
High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Year	7
Highest Enrollments by In-State Institution	6
Workforce Participation by High School Outcomes	6
Median 4-Quarter Wages by High School Outcomes	6
Overview of High School Outcomes	5
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By County	5
Highest Enrollments by Out-of-State Institution	4

Data Loads

The system management team:

1. Completed loading MHEC financial aid information data for academic year 2017. There were 244,421 financial aid applications and 610,162 separate financial aid awards totaling \$3.2 billion.
2. Continuing to load MSDE Assessment data files.
3. Performing Identity Resolution for individuals who have multiple system ID's for the same identifier (SSN) in progress